

Northeast Region Forest Pest Update – 08/15/06

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Insects:

Barklice - barklice have begun congregating this year, I spotted some in Langlade County on red pine. Barklice are not true lice, that's just their common name. They do not bite and they do not carry diseases. Barklice feed on bark, under dead bark, on lichens, on fungi, and in bird nests. They move as a group and you can easily herd the whole group around the tree for awhile (if you enjoy bug herding). Historically I've gotten reports from all of the lakeshore counties in the Northeast Region so be prepared, you should start getting reports soon. Some homeowners mistake them for tiny longhorned beetles because of their very long antennae.



EAB website by UW Extension – UW Extension has a new website on Emerald Ash Borer, you can check out the latest info at <http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/emeraldashborer/> or go to <http://www.emeraldashborer.info> for the latest national information about EAB.

EAB found in Evanston Illinois – Emerald Ash Borer has been discovered in Evanston, Illinois. Last month I told you about EAB being found in Wilmette which is a northern suburb of Chicago; Evanston is just to the south of Wilmette. Eight trees have been found to be infested so far at the Evanston site while 30 infested trees have now been found in Wilmette. Remember

EAB is a small insect, the adult beetle can fit on a penny; if you find one please collect it so that it can be sent in for proper identification.

Elm Sawfly – elm sawfly has been reported defoliating willow in Brown County. This large pretty sawfly (right, photo by Carolyn Rock) has the disturbing habit of falling out of trees and can startle you if it plops onto your head while you're hanging out under the tree. This year the large populations have been on willow, but it is reported to feed on elm, birch, maple, and poplar as well. The adult is a large, dark brown sawfly (left)



Fall webworm – The webs that you're seeing at this time of year are created by fall webworm. I've received multiple calls from concerned homeowners convinced that this insect and the webs (right) are killing their trees. This is one of our native caterpillars which constructs a loose web around the foliage that they want to feed on. Fall webworm does most of its defoliation late in the season, when the tree is preparing for fall, so people should not be too concerned about this defoliation.



Jack Pine Budworm on Red Pine in WCR – Todd Lanigan, West Central Region Pest Specialist, has been experiencing defoliation on Red Pine caused by Jack Pine Budworm. This problem has been going on in WCR for a couple years now and he's starting to see some top dieback in the red pine. I have not noticed any red pine in NER being defoliated by budworm but maybe you have? The photo at right shows what Jack Pine Budworm feeding damage would look like on Red Pine. If you've seen this please let me know. Jack Pine Budworm does not typically feed on Red Pine, it is a messy feeder that will clip portions of the needle and web them to the branch, creating the messy reddish look that you see in the photo. Some things that you might mistake for this kind of defoliation include sawflies which will completely consume the needle, and needle diseases will not have the webbing that you would see if it was Jack Pine Budworm defoliation.



Lacebug damage – lacebugs were observed defoliating cherry and basswood in Oconto and Menominee Counties. These insects can be found on the undersides of leaves. Trees with severe lacebug damage appear yellow or reddish from a distance, as you get closer leaves appear pale or white (right) but upon closer inspection the pale white areas are small areas where the insects sucked the plant juices from the underside of the leaf creating a small dead area of leaf material. To see the insects flip the leaves over and look for adults or smaller wingless juveniles.



Oak Twig Pruner – last month I mentioned that Oak Twig Pruner was causing oak branch tips to drop to the ground. Since then I’ve had additional reports of this pest from Waupaca County and Manitowoc County.

Pitch Mass Borer – this insect was found causing significant damage in a white pine plantation in Waushara County. Pitch Mass Borer is a woodboring caterpillar that bores into the tree and feeds on the inner bark and sapwood. It attacks a variety of pines but prefers white pine. The feeding causes the tree to produce large amounts of sap that form a pitch mass around the attack site (right) and multiple attacks can weaken a tree allowing the top to snap off. In the photo below the pitch mass has been torn open and you can see the caterpillar (worm) in the cavity that was underneath the pitch bubble. The adult moth is a clearwing moth. Wounded trees, stressed trees, or previously attacked trees are more commonly attacked than healthy trees are. Control includes limiting the amount of wounding, including pruning, that is done during the summer when adults are out laying their eggs. Additionally, trees that are attacked multiple times are more likely to be attacked again and again so removal of severely infested trees is recommended.



Redheaded Pine Sawfly – defoliation is showing up in Oconto County from this pest. This is a native insect identified by a bright yellow body with black dots and a red head. Redheaded Pine Sawflies feed as a colony with many sawfly larvae together on a single branch and can cause significant defoliation on young pines (photo by John Blayney). Their favorite food is red pine needles but they can feed on other pine species as well.

If you don’t have very many colonies of this pest you can use the “clip & squish” method of control where you clip the branch, drop it on the ground, and stomp on it. If you have lots of colonies it may warrant spraying a chemical pesticide. Multiple years of severe defoliation on young red pine can seriously stunt the growth of your trees or even cause mortality.



Diseases:

Annosum Root Rot in Waushara County – Waushara County now has at least 2 pine stands that have Annosum Root Rot present in the stand. The first one, which I reported to you last year, is located just south of Wild Rose. The newest location is just northeast of Redgranite. The most recent discovery is a red pine stand with some white pine and a fairly thick understory of white pine seedlings/saplings. We found at least 4 small



pockets of Annosum Root Rot. In this stand both the overstory trees and the understory white pine can be attacked by Annosum. The lovely specimen in the photo above was the largest Annosum fruiting structure that we found at this site, most were very small as shown in the photo at right.

The brochure which compares Annosum Root Rot with Red Pine Pocket Mortality and includes management recommendations has been updated with new information and some additional management information. Additionally, Columbia County (in the South Central Region) now has a site positively identified as Annosum Root Rot. Contact me Linda.Williams@dnr.state.wi.us or Kyoko Scanlon Kyoko.Scanlon@dnr.state.wi.us for a copy of the brochure with the latest updates.



Aspen leaf disease – around the region I've been noticing localized areas where aspen is being defoliated by a leaf disease. You'll notice some groups of trees who's crowns look very thin or from a distance you might think they've been defoliated by an insect (photo at right



by Shelley Wrzochalski). Up close the leaves appear small with many brown blotches on them (photo left). I've send a couple of samples down to Kyoko to try to determine which leaf disease is causing this defoliation. I believe it is Marsonina Leaf Spot, which caused similar defoliation in 2004, but I'll let you know for sure when I hear from Kyoko.



Oak wilt symptoms showing up – if you have active oak wilt pockets you've probably noticed that the symptoms are beginning to show up this year (below). Oak wilt is a non-curable fungal disease specific to



oaks. Trees in the red oak family will die quickly and completely from this disease while trees in the white oak family will die more slowly with a branch or portion of the crown becoming infected. Trees that were infected with the oak wilt fungus this year are currently turning off-color, dropping their leaves, and



will soon be dead. Leaves that drop to the ground will be partially green (photos at right). Once a tree is infected with oak wilt the fungus will begin to spread outward from the roots of the infected tree through root grafts and into the roots of neighboring trees. In this way, over several years, a pocket of dead oaks will be created and the disease will continue to spread through the roots unless something is done to break the root grafts, or, it will stop when the disease runs out of oaks in that area. A good brochure about oak wilt, including the biology of the disease and how it is spread, can be found at <http://cecommerce.uwex.edu/pdfs/G3590.PDF>



Pestalotiopsis on cedar – I've received several samples of Northern White Cedar with dead branch tips caused by the fungus *Pestalotiopsis*. This disease is an opportunistic pest and affects trees that are stressed by freeze injury, sunscald, or other environmental factors such as our drought last year. Browning begins at the tips of the branches and moves in toward the twig. Maintaining healthy trees and watering during a drought should alleviate this problem.



Other:

Carbofuran pesticide cancellation – EPA has announced that most uses of Carbofuran (a carbamate pesticide, tradename Furadan) will be removed from the label. The cancellation is immediately effective for the main uses of carbofuran: alfalfa, corn, cotton, potatoes, and rice. Its use will be phased out over four years for other minor uses including artichokes, chili peppers in the southwest, cucumbers, spinach for seed, sunflowers, and pine seedlings.

Lindane pesticide cancellation – manufacturers of Lindane (an organophosphate insecticide) have requested a voluntary cancellation of all remaining uses of their product. EPA has announced that all remaining uses of Lindane will not be eligible for re-registration. This means that Lindane will no longer be available for purchase once distributors have used up their current stock.

Timber harvests and oak wilt – there are certain times of the year when the risk of introducing oak wilt into a stand following a harvest is very high. At other times, such as during the summer period of July 15 – September 30, the risk is lower but is still present, especially if you already have oak wilt in the area. If you are harvesting oak during a lower risk time period, but are still concerned about overland introduction of oak wilt by the beetles, you might consider painting the stumps. The paint (any kind will do, latex, primer, rustoleum, etc) will coat the stump and block the beetles from direct access to that large wound, thus they will not be able to introduce the oak wilt fungus to that stump. The entire surface of the wound/stump needs to be painted including any torn bark or remaining rough areas at the hinge point. If you choose to do this the paint needs to be applied ASAP following the cutting of each oak tree; some research has shown that beetles can be attracted to wounds within 15 minutes of that wound being created. The photo above was taken on the Peshtigo River State Forest and shows nicely painted stumps.



Wind damage – since my last update we've had several storms with strong damaging winds in the Northeast Region, including one on July 30 that knocked down trees in several communities, a storm with hail and strong winds on August 1, and various other storms. It's been a stormy month here!

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<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Fh/index.htm>